

of the pioneer. They will be old, oppressed, battered Negro women, symbolized in a seventy-two year old woman in Montgomery, Alabama, who rose up with a sense of dignity and with her people decided not to ride the segregated buses, and who responded with ungrammatical profundity to one who inquired about her weariness: "My feet is tired, but my soul is at rest." They will be the young high school and college students, the young ministers of the gospel and a host of their elders, courageously and non-violently sitting in at lunch counters and willingly going to jail for conscience' sake. One day the South will know that when these disinherited children of God sat down at lunch counters, they were in reality standing up for what is best in the American dream and for the most sacred values in our Judeo-Christian heritage, thereby bringing our nation back to those great wells of democracy which were dug deep by the founding fathers in their formulation of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence.

Never before have I written so long a letter. I'm afraid it is much too long to take your precious time. I can assure you that it would have been much shorter if I had been writing from a comfortable desk, but what else can one do when he is alone in a narrow jail cell, other than write long letters, think long thoughts, and pray long prayers?

If I have said anything in this letter that overstates the truth and indicates an unreasonable impatience, I beg you to forgive me. If I have said anything that understates the truth and indicates my having a patience that allows me to settle for anything less than brotherhood, I beg God to forgive me.

I hope this letter finds you strong in the faith. I also hope that circumstances will soon make it possible for me to meet each of you, not as an integrationist or a civil-rights leader but as a fellow clergymen and a Christian brother. Let us all hope that the dark clouds of racial prejudice will soon pass away and the deep fog of misunderstanding will be lifted from our fear drenched communities, and in some not too distant tomorrow the radiant stars of love and brotherhood will shine over our great nation with all their scintillating beauty.

Yours for the cause of Peace and Brotherhood,

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Mr. President, I am struck by a fortuitous phrase in the closing of this remarkable letter: "One day the South will recognize its real heroes."

The South will recognize its real heroes indeed—heroes like Dr. King, like Rosa Parks, like my old friend Fred Shuttlesworth; heroes like Congressman JOHN LEWIS, like Fannie Lou Hamer, like Ida B. Wells; heroes like the countless others who stood alongside them in the fight for civil rights and like the innocent victims swept up in the brutal crackdowns during this hopeful movement toward universal human dignity.

We carry on their legacy in our daily lives—in our schools, in our houses of worship, in our workplaces, and throughout our society. That includes in the institution of the U.S. Senate. It is also carried on in the work of Dr. King's family members, like Martin Luther King III.

Dr. King wrote his letter in the midst of this struggle and knew that much work still lay ahead. Less than 6 months after his arrest, the Klan in

Birmingham planted a bomb outside the ladies' lounge of the 16th Street Baptist Church, and it killed four innocent young African-American girls.

A year later, though, Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The year after that, it passed the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Historic changes were afoot. Yet, despite this incredible historic progress—or perhaps because of it—in April 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated in Memphis, TN. He was just 39 years old. He gave his life for this cause. He gave his life in a struggle during which so many gave their lives.

We have to remember this is not ancient history. We know that we still have our challenges albeit in a world that has, no doubt, benefited tremendously from the progress he achieved, but it is still a work in progress. It will always be a work in progress.

If we truly believe in carrying on his legacy, we must recognize that we cannot stand idly by when we see injustice and that we cannot stand idly by when we see a reemergence of hateful rhetoric in our public discourse. We have seen it before. We have seen it before in Birmingham and elsewhere. We have seen before the devastating violence that can follow, and it lives with us today. It lives with us today in tragedies like those of Charleston, Charlottesville, Pittsburgh, and now New Zealand.

We need to strive not just for civility but to make sure we live in a country that does not hold each other in contempt. That bears repeating. We talk a lot in this Chamber about civility and respect and dignity, but the fact is, when we leave this Chamber and go out into the world, people will hold each other in contempt more so than is just public discourse. That has to change, ladies and gentlemen. It has to change. Importantly, we—each of us—should continue to do our part to ensure that the art of the moral universe continues to bend toward justice.

I thank my colleagues who joined me this evening for this historic event. It has been an honor and a privilege.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MURKOWSKI). The Senator from Ohio.

REMEMBERING LIEUTENANT COLONEL RICHARD COLE

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, we lost an American hero today—the last in the line of heroes that will I explain in a moment. He was Ohio native Lt. Col. Richard Cole, and he was the last of the fabled Doolittle Raiders.

In the spring of 1942, the Nation was reeling from Pearl Harbor, and 80 Americans embarked on a mission that many thought to be impossible. They knew the dangers. They knew many of them would not come home. The Raiders showed America and the world that the United States and the Allied Forces could win the war. It was considered a turning point in the news coverage and in people's minds.

Like my dad, the Doolittle Raiders came from a generation that spoke

proudly of their service to their country. They rarely drew attention or talked much about their own courage. They sought no recognition but, oh, how they earned it.

It was an honor to help award the Congressional Gold Medal to the Doolittle Raiders in Washington 4 years ago—a long time in coming and so deserved. I believe, at that time, there were five Doolittle Raiders left, and after the death of Mr. COLE, there are none today.

I am so glad that Dick Cole was able to live to receive that medal, as were a handful of others. These men are no longer with us, so it is all the more important that we continue to tell their story. My heart goes out to the families and friends of Lieutenant Colonel Cole and to those of all the Raiders. I thank the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders Association for keeping that memory alive.

NOMINATION OF CHERYL MARIE STANTON

Madam President, President Trump has made big promises to workers in Alaska and Ohio and across the country. He has promised workers everywhere that he will put American workers first. Yet we know in Lordstown and from his court appointments, which have put a thumb on the scale of justice as they have chosen corporations over workers, that he has betrayed those workers. The people he has put in charge haven't looked out for workers. Over and over again, they have put their thumbs on the scale for corporations. His Cabinet, frankly, looks like a retreat for Wall Street.

His latest nominee for the Department of Labor is more of the same, another nominee who puts corporations over workers. Cheryl Stanton is nominated to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division.

This is not an especially well-known Agency to most Americans, but it is a critical job for all American workers. The Administrator is the person in charge of enforcing overtime rules, the minimum wage, child labor, and the Family Medical Leave Act. These are all Federal laws. The minimum wage is a Federal law. The overtime rule is a Federal law. The Family Medical Leave Act is a Federal law, as is the law regarding child labor. These are all Federal laws, but they don't mean much if they are not enforced.

You don't want a fox in a chicken coop. You want to make sure that these laws are enforced by somebody who is not on the side of corporate interests, as too many in this Senate are and as too many in this administration are; you want somebody who is on the side of the workers. The job of Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division should be to look out for American workers when companies try to cheat them out of the pay that they have earned.

But Ms. Stanton spent a decade defending corporations—that is right, defending the corporations against American workers when they stole workers'